

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

HEW-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 USIA-06

EB-07 DPW-01 SS-15 L-02 NSC-05 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01

AGR-05 /085 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5774

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 4272

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 1327

E.O.11652: N/A

TAG : EAID, PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: EL ARISH FLOOD RELIEF

REF: CAIRO 2137

1. GOI MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE HAVE PROVIDED RAPID AND EFFECTIVE RELIEF TO EL ARISH FLOOD VICTIMS WITH ASSISTANCE OF ICRC AND CARE-GAZA. MOST RECENT STATISTICS ARE 17 DEAD, 300 FAMILY DWELLINGS(HOUSES AND TENTS) DESTROYED OR BADLY DAMAGED, AND 2,700 PERSONS RECEIVING EMERGENCY RELIEF.

2. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE HAS COORDINATED RELIEF EFFORT WITH ICRC CONTRIBUTING SUPPLIES, MILGOVT PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, AND CARE LOANING LABORERS. ICRC CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN 30 TO 35 TONS OF FLOUR, 2,000 BLANKETS, AND 17 TENTS. CAR WORKERS HAVE REBAGGED FLOUR INTO RELIEF RATIONS AND HAVE PARTICIPATED

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IN DISTRIBUTION THESE TO ABOUT 1,000 RECIPIENTS. RATIONS

HAVE BEEN SUPPLEMENTED WITH TEA, SUGAR, RICE AND MEDICINE
CONTRIBUTED BY GOI.

3. EXTENTS OF DAMAGE IN TOWN OF EL ARISH IS 106 HOMES
COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY DESTROYED, AND 1,200 PERSONS
REQUIRING RELIEF ASSISTANCE. WITHIN SINAI, ALONG WADI-
EL-ARISH BASIN, TENTS OF APPROXIMATELY 200 BEDUIN
FAMILIES WERE SWEEPED AWAY, 900 SHEEP AND CAMELS HAVE BEEN
LOST AND 1,500 PERSONS ARE IN NEED OF RELIEF AID.
FIGURES FOR BEDUIN MAY INCREASE SOMEWHAT AS SEARCH INTO
INTERIOR OF PENINSULA CONTINUES. SEARCH HAS BEEN
UNDERWAY FOR THREE DAYS ALONG BOTH SIDES OF WADI TO
DISTANCE OF 200 KM FROM EL ARISH.

4. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN AID THROUGH RED
CRESCENT, ICRC REP TELLS US ICRC HAS PASSED PROPOSAL
TO GOI, AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE HAS CONFIRMED
THAT QUESTION IS UNDER DISCUSSION AT " HIGHEST
LEVELS." ICRC ASSESSMENT IS THAT RELIEF EFFORT WILL BE
IN HAND AND THAT NO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM EGYPT IS
NEEDED. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, AID OVER LONGER TERM
WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THOSE WHOSE HOMES AND MEANS OF
LIVELIHOOD WERE DESTROYED. ASSISTANCE FROM EGYPT WOULD
THEREFORE CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL SHOULD GOI MAKE POLITICAL
DECISION TO ALLOW RED CRESCENT PARTICIPATION.
KEATING

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